

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are currently pending.

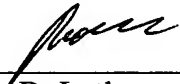
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0185190 to Chitrapu, et al (hereinafter “the ‘190 publication”).

Regarding the rejections of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Applicants overcome the rejection by perfecting priority to the priority document JP 2002-349865, filed on December 2, 2002. The priority document anti dates the ‘190 publication. The ‘190 publication was filed in the U.S. on December 23, 2002. Because the ‘190 publication was filed after the Applicants’ priority date of December 2, 2002, by virtue Applicants’ perfecting priority, the ‘190 publication is not a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Thus, with the present filing of a translation of Applicants’ priority document, the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are rendered moot.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for filing allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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